

CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING SUMMARY FORM

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION: Greenways Advisory Committee
DATE OF MEETING: Sept. 7, 2005
NAME/TELEPHONE OF PERSON PREPARING SUMMARY: Robin Madel, 303-441-4073
NAMES OF MEMBERS, COUNCIL, STAFF AND INVITED GUESTS PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS – Gil Barth, Susan Iott, Simon Mole, Chad Julian, Allyn Feinberg STAFF – Annie Noble, Karen Medde, Betty Solek, Alice Guthrie, Mark Gershman, Robin Madel
WHAT TYPE OF MEETING (BOLD ONE) [REGULAR] [SPECIAL] [QUASI-JUDICIAL]
Agenda Item 1 – Tour of Fourmile Canyon Creek The tour began at 6 p.m.
Agenda Item 2 – Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m.
Agenda Item 3 – Approval of meeting minutes from June 1, 2005. The committee had already approved the minutes through email so this item was skipped.
Agenda Item 4 – Staff and GAC review of Greenways Master Plan using Fourmile Canyon Creek as an example project. The GAC and staff discussed the vision for the Greenways Master Plan (MP) update. The Comprehensive Flood and Stormwater Master Plan calls for inclusion of all 13 tributaries to Boulder Creek in the Greenways MP update. The remaining seven tributaries that were not included in the original Greenways MP may not have trails built along them, however; the tributaries are slated to have flood projects done so they would need to be evaluated for all of the Greenways objectives. Some of these tributaries may need aquatic habitat assessments done prior to the update to the Greenways MP. The structure of the updated MP was discussed. Other departmental master plans are being restructured to cover funding and resources based on a three-tiered approach. This approach would be difficult given that projects shown in the Greenways Master Plan may not necessarily be constructed through the Greenways CIP budget, but may be included as part of the Transportation, Flood, Parks or Open Space CIP. The Greenways program is unique in how it is structured because the Greenways Master Plan and Program guide how projects are constructed along the riparian corridors whether they are funded through the Greenways Program budget or through other departments. The MP will be approved by the GAC, Planning Board and City Council. The GAC replaces the individual approval of five boards. Specific goals for the City Council could be added to the MP to provide a way for the council to embrace the Greenways Program. Programmatic goals could be set with measures in place for how those goals are being met. Examples of this include adding sustainability criteria to the MP. The use of consultants versus staff to prepare the update was discussed. Realistically it will involve a crossover effort of both to complete the rewrite. In looking at how to fit the existing program into a three-tiered structure, the committee and staff agreed that the following levels of work would address the fiscally constrained, action and vision plan model being used throughout the city. The Fiscally Constrained level would include spending resources and funding on the projects already identified in the CIP and ensuring that those projects are done right. The Action Plan level would include evaluation and identification of projects along the remaining tributaries. The Vision Plan level would include

identifying all projects along Boulder Creek and on all tributaries to Boulder Creek. The Vision Plan level would include monitoring and tracking of program success and could include completion of a public survey. This level would also include an evaluation of funding sources.

Completion of the MP update could be hampered by a lack of funding. The GAC considered keeping the update simple for this iteration, updating the reach inventory and map and including some simple recommendations, and evaluating whether the Greenways Master plan would fit into the three-tiered approach.

Further discussion covered how the challenges of basin-wide conditions can have an impact on Greenways Program criteria.

Agenda Item 5 – Staff update on Elmer’s Twomile Project.

The major issue along Elmer’s Twomile Creek includes reconstruction of the creek between the Willow Brook complex and the Tebo Plaza parking lot. Due to the limited space available for a conveyance channel, staff has received agreement from Urban Drainage to allow the creek to be contained in a pipe through that section. A balance was sought between preserving trees, maintaining parking spaces and providing sufficient setbacks from adjacent properties. Staff cautioned that the excavation for the pipe could still result in losing trees.

Agenda Item 6 – Staff update on Boulder Creek improvements between 17th and 19th streets.

The original plan for this area included a wetland terrace adjacent to the north bank of Boulder Creek. However, after considering the number of large trees, roots and the amount of soil that would have to be removed staff eliminated the terraced wetland area from the plan. In accordance with the wetland permit for this project any wetland area that is permanently altered will be replaced with new wetland plantings at a 2 to 1 ratio.

Agenda Item 7 - Matters from Committee.

- Gil Barth asked about the status of the bike path in front of the new NOAA building.
- Susan Iott asked about the use of red paver blocks versus gravel on bike paths edges.

Robin will follow up with the appropriate staff in Transportation on these questions.

Agenda Item 8 - Discussion of future meeting dates and agenda.

The GAC discussed when the next meeting date would be. The meeting will be held closer to the end of the year. The agenda will include updates on the budget and progress on the MP.

Agenda Item 7 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting: To be determined.